MADRAS WAR REVIEW

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DIARY OF THE WAR

21st Feb.—It is reported that Marshal Petain has rejected a request from Mussolini that Italian troops in Libya be permitted passage through Tunisia to return to Italy.

Czech leaders including Dr. Milan Hodza, ex-Premier of Czechoslovakia have been sentenced to heavy terms of imprisonment at Bratislava.

Big merchantships are to be built in Australia to help the British war effort. A progamme provides for the construction of steamers of ten thousand tons.

Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, and Sir John Dill, Chief of the Imperial General Staff have arrived in Egypt.

Approximately 200 air-craft have been flown across the pacific from California to Singapore. Seventy pursuit planes of the latest and fastest American Army Air Corps fighters are being transported by sea to Nationalist China while 12 retired United States pilots have landed in Netherlands East Indies where they will be flying instructors.

Nazi raids on Britain. Swansea, in South Wales, South and East England and East Scotland were visited by enemy aircraft. Damage was done to houses and casualties, including a number of killed, were caused.

Mr. Matsuoka declared that in his capacity of Foreign Minister he made no proposal of mediation to any specific country.

It is suggested in well-informed Chinese quarters that in an effort to bring about a Russo-Japanese rapprochement, Germany is urging Japan to return the southern part of the Island of Sakhalin to Russia. In return it is proposed that Russia should agree to enter into a Non-aggression pact with Japan.

Royal Air Force attack objectives in the industrial area of Western Ruhr, Wilhelmshaven, Emden, Brest and aerodromes in Holland and France.

22nd Feb.—The port of Jumbo in Italian Somaliland has fallen to South African troops.

Malta area is mined by the British.

The French Delegation to the Tokyo Conference of Mediation in the Thai-Indo-China dispute protests against the presence of the Japanese Fleet off the Indo-China coast.

The South African Defence Department announces the loss of the patrol vessel *Southern Flow* through enemy action.

Slight enemy air activity over Great Britain. A German plane dropped bombs on a coast town in North-East Scotland without causing any casualties.

Royal Air Force raided the enemy naval base of Brest.

23rd Feb.—A combined force of British and Abyssinian patriot troops occupy Shogali on the Blue Nile in Abyssinia. Following a sharp engagement in the Bomba sector the enemy retires.

The Greeks launch successful attacks on the Northern and Central fronts in Albania. In the Devoli valley and the Ostravitza mountains and near the source of the Skumbi River Italian counter-attacks have been repulsed. Bombing of Preveza by enemy aircraft is reported. Royal Air Force successfully bomb Duka, north-west of Tepelini.

A German request for the demobilization of almost the whole of the Hungarian Army is reported to have been made to General Bartha, the Hungarian Commander-in-Chief.

British subjects throughout Manchukuo have been advised by the British Government to leave the country.

There was slight enemy activity mainly off the east and south-east coasts of England. Few enemy aircraft crossed the coasts. They were chased back by Spitfires across the Straits of Dover.

The difficulties of the fight in which Italy is engaged "not only in the Mediterranean but above all on the widely separated fronts of the war against British world power" were explained by Mussolini in a speech at Rome addressed to "the Italian people and the world.

24th Feb.—Italian troops holding positions about Cub Cub in Eritrea have been dispersed by British forces. On the road to Gondar in Abyssinia advanced British elements have reached Amanit. In Jarabub in Libya the British have contained the Italian forces and are content in view of the holy character of the place to await the inevitable Italian surrender.

West African troops capture Brava in Italian Somaliland. Cleaning up operations are continuing in the Gelib area. Abyssinian irregulars and South African troops capture Moyale.

The British Air Force bomb the Addis Ababa aerodrome and the South African bombers attack field dumps at Nefasit, in Eritrea.

The Turkish Foreign Minister, M. Sarajoglu, in an interview to a Turkish paper said that Turkey would stand by her commitments to Britain in spite of the Turko-Bulgarian Non-aggression Pact. He added: "Turkey

remains faithful to her alliances. She could not in any way remain indifferent to foreign activities taking place in her zone of security. She will offer armed opposition to all aggression directed against her territorial integrity and independence ".

Hitler, in the course of an address to the old members of the Nazi Party, threatens that " in March and April a naval warfare will start such as the enemy never expected."

Royal Air Force attack enemy naval base at Brest.

Marshal Petain has re-formed his Cabinet which consists of five Ministers and seven Under Secretaries.

There was a little enemy activity over England. Bombs dropped at scattered points in East Anglia. Damage and casualties were nowhere great.

25th Feb.—British Imperial troops are continuing their advance south of Cub Cub. British East African and West African troops, occupy Mogadishu, the capital of Italian Somaliland.

Aircraft of the Bomber and Coastal Commands attack invasion ports of Boulogne, Dunkirk and Calais.

The formation of a uniformed Women's Royal Australian Air Force Auxiliary is announced by Mr. McEwen, Air Minister. The Australian " wrens " will do wireless, teleprinter and ground duties, receiving two-thirds of the man's pay.

Every householder in Britain will receive free compensation from the Government up to £200 for air raid damage to clothing, furniture and other household goods, under the new Government free insurance scheme outlined by Sir Kingsley Wood.

Coventry, which was subjected to a heavy air raid in November last is to be replanned according to a scheme adopted by the Coventry Council.

Britain's Food Controller, Lord Woolton, imposes restrictions on hotels and restaurants from March 10.

A deputation representing all disbanded political parties waits on King Boris to discuss " the foreign position ". Preparation for a German entry into Bulgaria is evident from the fact that the main roads from north to south are being feverishly overhauled under German supervision.

Britons living in Bulgaria have been advised to leave the country.

Italians bomb Greek positions along the road to Koritza towards Florina. British and Greek planes reply vigorously in the Moskopolis sector.

British forces occupy the small Italian island, Castel Lorezo, in the Dodecanese group.

Royal Air Force fighters shoot down two German planes when they raided Malta.

Enemy air activity was mainly over Eastern England. Bombs were dropped at a number of places in East Anglia and at a few points elsewhere. Litle damage was done and casualities were few. One enemy bomber was destroyed.

26th Feb.—British forces at Cub Cub are advancing further south and are now some 50 miles away from Keren. Further South British forces are advancing from Barentu towards Aareza on the road north of Asmara.

Mr. Anthony Eden, the British Foreign Secretary and General Sir John Dill, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, arrive in Ankara. They have been received by M. Sarajoglu, the Turkish Foreign Minister.

It is reported that the Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Matsuoka will visit Moscow to sign an agreement with the Soviet.

Royal Air Force attack docks at Calais and fighters carry out an offensive sweep over the Channel and Northern France.

Small forces of enemy aircraft bomb coastal areas of Kent and East Anglia; damage caused was slight and there was a small number of casualities.

A big German air attack on Malta is reported. Seven planes were shot down.

27th Feb.—British mechanised forces encountered west of Aguila in Libya and drove back a reconnaissance unit of armoured fighting vehicles believed to be German. In Eritrea the British forces contain the main body of the enemy about Keren.

British women evacuees from Thailand arrive at Sydney.

Mr. John Winant, the new American Ambassador to Britain has left for Lisbon *en route* to London.

Mr. Eden and Sir John Dill started their talks with the Turkish Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, the Chief of the Staff and the President of the National Assembly. Sir Stafford Cripps, British Ambassador at Moscow has left for Istanbul for talks with Mr. Eden.

Australia has severed trading relations with Rumania which has been declared enemy territory.

Enemy air activity over Britain. Bombs have been dropped in the outskirts of London and a number of places in East Anglia and there is a small number of casualties. One Heinkel bomber approaching small units of the British Navy in the North Sea was shot down.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 18th February 1941:—

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
February 12, Wednesday.	(No reports.)		
February 13, Thursday.	(No reports.)		
February 14, Friday.	R.A.F. day fighter-and-bomber sweeps over N. France. R.A.F. day bomber raids on invasion bases at Denhelder (harbour, canal, shipping) and Calais; shipping off Norwegian coast. R.A.F. night bomber raids on oil plant at Gelsenkirchen; inland port at Duisburg Ruhrort; aerodromes in N. W. Germany and Holland; invasion base at Ostend.	1	.
February 15, Saturday.	R.A.F. night bomber raids on industrial targets in the W. Ruhr; including six oil plants, an inland port and two aerodromes; invasion bases at Rotterdam, Boulogne, Calais.	5	..
February 16, Sunday.	R.A.F. single-plane day bomber raids on invasion bases at Hellovoelsluis (Holland), Middleburg, Denhelder, Zeebrugge; shipping off Dutch coast. R.A.F. night "leaflet raids" on Cracow and Katowice areas of Poland.	Nil.	..
February 17, Monday.	R.A.F. day sweep (no details) over enemy territory ..	1	1
February 18, Tuesday.	(No reports.)		

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 18th February 1941 :—

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
February 12	Nil.	1
February 13	Nil.	..
February 14	1	1
February 15	2	6
February 16	Nil.	2
February 17	Nil.	4
February 18	..	2

TALKING POINTS

THE WEEK.

The week has been marked by remarkable progress made in the conquest of Italian Somaliland. After the fall of Jubaland the British advance has continued, resulting in the capture of Margharita and the important port of Jelib, both north of the Juba river. Mogadishu, the capital of Italian Somaliland, fell to the British on Tuesday evening and the Imperial troops have covered a distance of hundred miles from Brava which was captured on Monday; an advance of 570 miles in thirteen days—British forces began their march on February 12 from their base—is an achievement which can only be compared with the feat performed in Libya, and the well-timed and well-regulated co-operation of the army, the navy and the air force has made this possible. Mogadishu, though it is the capital of the Italian Somaliland, is not of great importance as a port, but it commands two roads, one leading to the Jibuti railway and Harar in Abyssinia and the other westwards to Lugh. Thousands of men and great quantity of war materials have been taken during these operations. It will be remembered that Mogadishu was the base of Italian operations against Abyssinia. The re-capture of British Somaliland is now only a matter of time, and only a small, isolated Italian garrison holds it.

Moyale has been recaptured by the British. It should be remembered that Moyale was captured by the Italians in July last year, so that, by its recapture, all Italian troops have been driven out of British territory.

The progress in Abyssinia from north, west and south continues in twelve different directions threatening the forces of the Duke of Aosta.

In Eritrea the British forces are advancing from the north driving the Italian troops from Cub Cub and are continuing the drive southwards. They are now within striking distance of Keren, having made contact with advanced position of the Garrison of the enemy. Other forces continue to march on Keren from the west. The aim of British strategy in all these operations is to drive Italians inward. Without hope of reinforcements and completely cut off from Italy, the position of Italians in East Africa is hopeless and surrender or defeat is inevitable.

The week has been marked by speeches by the two dictators in Europe. Mussolini's speech on Sunday last was an attempt to explain the defeat of his troops in Africa while Hitler's speech broke no new ground, except a promise often made to break the back of Great Britain.

As if to prove that Hitler's threats were empty the dive bombers operating in Italian bases, which attacked the British Fleet in the Central Mediterranean early this week, were beaten off in or about the scene of the former unsuccessful attack against the aircraft carrier *Illustrious*. No damage resulted to British ships, while the Germans lost some of their aircraft. The convoy reached its destination safely while no British warships were hit. It is also noteworthy that another bad start was made by some German reconnaisance troops 150 miles west of Bengazhi. This attack was repulsed—an attempt, half-hearted, on the part of the Fuhrer, to help 'the weaker partner'.

Meanwhile, the war of nerves has continued unabated. The knock-out blow against the British is still being threatened by intensive blockade of the Eastern Atlantic culminating probably in invasion. Air attacks on railways, industrial plants and aerodromes in Great Britain are to be pursued with greater vigour than ever before. The Balkans are to be converted into a spring-board, for an offensive, the precise direction and scope of which may become clear in a few days. Various promises are being held out to Yugoslavia to permit German troops to pass through that country to Salonika, while, according to information in the possession of the British Government, every preparation has been completed in Rumania to march the troops into Bulgaria in order to invade Greece. The British representative in Bulgaria has warned Bulgaria and hinted that severance of diplomatic relations with that country is imminent and this is clear evidence that a crisis is impending. Germany, further, is to become dominant in North Africa from Dakar to Alexandria by securing control over the Central Mediterranean from Sicily on the northern side and Tunisia in the south. These would require the co-operation of Spain and of the Vichy Government which is not forthcoming. Finally, Germany hopes that Japan will be able to divert British forces and American supplies to the Pacific in order to make it easy for Hitler to secure domination in Europe.

British statesmanship is not unequal to all these feverish moves. Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary and General Sir John Dill, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, secretly left Great Britain, visited Egypt and then proceeded to Ankara where they carried on important conversations with the representatives of the Turkish Government Sir Stafford Cripps, British Ambassador in Moscow, has come down to Ankara, to explain Soviet's attitude to Mr. Eden. The visit of Mr. Eden is of momentous importance and its results will appear as Germany decides on further moves. It is of great significance that Mr. Eden's presence in Turkey is looked upon as a symbol of the democratic cause and a note of affection and regard is obvious in the welcome accorded to him. It is therefore a fair inference to draw that there is full agreement between Great Britain and Turkey on matters of common interest.

TURKISH ATTITUDE.

There is nothing to warrant any suspicion about the Turkish attitude towards Great Britain. The Turkish-Bulgarian declaration, it is clear, does not signify any change in the Turkish policy and a Turkish newspaper stated the other day that the alliances with Great Britain and with Greece were fundamental points in that policy. The Turks are realists and they well know that the German threat would imply that the Straits would be doubly threatened from the west and from the north. The Turks have never promised to go to the help of Bulgaria and they would not enter Bulgaria to resist the German invasion because her own defences are strong in Thrace and they could bring up reinforcements to meet any emergency. Further, there are in the agreement saving clauses the full significance of which must be appreciated. The Turkish Foreign Minister, M. Sarajoglu, has made the position of Turkey absolutely clear. He said on Monday last that Turkey would stand by her commitments to Britain and she would be faithful to her alliances. He went further and said that Turkey could not in any way remain indifferent to foreign activities taking place in her zone of security, which obviously includes Bulgaria, and that she would offer armed opposition to all aggression directed against her territorial integrity and independence. The visit of the British Foreign Minister to Turkey, which has been purposely misrepresented as one, the object of which is to coerce Turkey, should do a great deal to clarify the position. It is possible that delay in the German drive is due partly to Mr. Eden's visit. It should be remembered that the talk is only a continuation of those which have already been held.

It should be taken for granted that Bulgaria has yielded to the pressure of Germany in regard to the passage of German troops. The Bulgarian Prime Minister, it is reported, will soon proceed to Germany to sign away Bulgarian independence by joining the Axis. If this is so, then Great Britain would be free to consider Bulgaria as an enemy country. The British have now secured Greek bases for their operations. Further, General Wavell has large troops available and the British have other bases from which to check German action.

MUSSOLINI'S SPEECH.

Mussolini's lament on Sunday last made in a speech at Rome to " the Italian people and the world " is in strange contrast to that which he delivered in the Palazzo Venezia in Rome on November 18th on the fifth anniversary of the imposing of " sanctions ". In that speech he prided himself on the fact that the defeat of the British Somaliland had been completed and just as at Dunkirk, so at Berbera, the English had fled. He further spoke of the Italian initiative in the occupation of Sidi Barrani, which, he said, must not be considered a conclusion, but merely a prologue. Mussolini also dwelt upon the Italian lines of communication in the Mediterranean and the part played by the Italian Navy in such an efficient manner that the enemy Navy was not able to interrupt them, and of the strength of the Italian Air Force. What, however, did the Italian Dictator say on Sunday last? Where are his 14,000 officers and 356,000 men, 1,900 guns and 15,300 machine guns which he had massed in his African Empire? In spite of these careful preparations he admitted that the British " forestalled us by a few days ". According to reliable accounts Italy has lost a thousand planes in North Africa. Mussolini is losing his African Empire bit by bit, while not only has he been driven out of Greece, but he is losing ground every day in Albania where he has lost 27,000 killed, 66,000 wounded and 29,000 missing, of whom 20,000 are prisoners. In spite of these devastating facts the Duce expressed his complete conviction that the struggle would come to " a victorious conclusion ". History will, however, record what the character of this conclusion would be. Mussolini has followed up this speech by another in which he described in considerable detail the help which he gave to General Franco, the money value of which was £91 millions. He did this either to make excuses for the unpreparedness of Italy when she entered the present war or to appeal to General Franco to rush to his help. It was an inept performance to explain away his frustrated desire to secure quick rewards with small sacrifices.

HITLER'S SPEECH.

The points in Hitler's speech on Monday last may thus be summarised :—

(1) " In March and April a naval warfare will start such as the enemy never expected ".

This warfare evidently refers to intensified submarine campaign and air attack. Great Britain is fully prepared.

(2) " I used the power of the German nation for this purpose and in good time. I am resolved to use Europe for the same purpose if necessary—in fact I am doing so."

According to a Lisbon correspondent of a British newspaper, there is now a slave army of well over a million of foreign workers in Germany. There are 670,000 industrial workers, besides agricultural labourers deported from Poland. It is stated that the prisoners of war working on farms and non-military production exceeds two millions. Poland is the biggest recruiting field, and the method of recruiting is simply transportation at a few hours' notice and the people deported should be ready at such short notice. The unemployed in Denmark and Norway are told that if they do not accept employment in Germany their dole will be curtailed.

(3) " We shall find them (the British) wherever they go and strike where our blows will be most destructive ".

The story of the unsuccessful attempts of the dive bombers in the Mediterranean to destroy

British convoy and the futile attempts of the Luftwaffe to hit British aircraft carriers is too recent to need reiteration.

(4) " When I have chosen a man, I stick to him. The bond which unites our revolution is insoluble and it is the same with the two men."

Hitler's record is black in this respect. A list of his closest friends whom he sent to concentration camps or to the scaffold when they were of no further use to him is a pretty long one. It may be remarked that this reference to Mussolini was heard in dark silence indicating that such remarks addressed to a German audience were not welcome because Germans were well aware of the Fuhrer's misdeeds.

(5) " We have been waiting for our new U-boats. Two hours ago, I received reports that German surface warships and U-boats had sunk 215 thousand tons of shipping in two days."

This figure was later advanced to 250,000 tons, but the account is fantastic. The fact is that merchant shipping losses in the week ended 16th February were 12 ships with a gross tonnage of 37,636 tons, British and Allied.

(6) " Germany was not fleecing others but following a form of economy which was of use to Germany."

" The New Statesman and Nation " of November 23, in commenting upon Hitler's relations with conquered countries, wrote as follows :—

" There occurred in that speech of Hitler at Munich which our bombers interrupted, a brief passage that went unreported in the daily press. In the German wireless version it ran as follows :—' In a few months Germany has in fact bestowed freedom on the continent. The British attempt to Balkanise Europe—let British statesmen note this carefully—is ended and ruled out. England's aim was to disorganize it." It is not the first time Italy will organize it. ' It is not the first time that Hitler has struck this note ; he did it notably in a proclamation when he crossed the Dutch frontier. Hitler, if he should win this war, will certainly unify the continent by military power, but he will make the people helots under the German master-race. His economic plan is as clearly to exploit the peasants, primary producers of Eastern Europe and the Balkans, while Germany monopolises industry."

JAPAN.

The latest news of Japan is that over eighty German and Italian military advisers have arrived at Hainan Island, off French Indo-China and the Japanese forces are being assisted by them to map out plans for an advance to the south. It is also stated that more than 100 Japanese warships, including destroyers, submarines and two aircraft carriers are concentrated around Hainan Island, Tonkin Bay and the adjoining islands and that 90,000 Japanese troops are now in Formosa and Hainan. There is, however, no confirmation of these moves. Japanese residents in Indo-China have been asked to leave immediately. Meanwhile both Great Britain and America have warned Japan against any move in the south and the question is whether this warning will have its effect on the Japanese Government.

So far as the Indo-China-Thailand dispute is concerned, the latest information is to the effect that the Petain Government has accepted the terms decided on by Japan in order to avoid a military conflict.

The offer of Japan to mediate in the war in the west has proved to be a damp squib. Mr. Churchill finally buried this insidious controversy by stating in the House of Commons that Great Britain will not, in a cause of the kind for which Great Britain is fighting—a cause in no way concerned with territory, trade or material gains but affecting the whole future of humanity—there can be no question of compromise or parley."

MORALS AND NEUTRALITY

Mr. De Valera, says *Time and Tide* (British) is one of the few statesmen who know the meaning of abstract nouns and cling to that meaning and the exactness of it with an intellectual integrity that in these days of loose thinking cannot but arouse admiration. He knows what neutrality means and he stands politically for its full intellectual content. To lease ports to Britain is to be unneutral. Eire is neutral, so leasing is impossible. Mr. De Valera honestly believes that it is simply a problem of intellectual ethics to which there is only one solution—the blank negative. Politically he is murdering Eire but that does not matter so long as logically he is unassailable. The higher implications, the real moral issue he does not face any more than he has faced the political. Politically, here is a superb chance for the kind of gesture to which the English invariably respond with the certainty of saving Eire economically and perhaps Ireland politically. Morally, here is a superb chance to raise issues that transcend politics, of conferring on Eire that dignity which arises from taking free decisions on moral grounds before they become politically necessary.

But Eire is neutral. Recent events might have shown him that adherence to logic is a process no neutral can afford, but Mr. De Valera is obstinate. He would prefer to go down with his country in loyalty to a formula rather than, at the sacrifice of the formula, benefit his country. Others than the British Government are, it is believed, seeking to find a solution which will give us the facilities we need without wrecking the precious formula. Their success is naturally problematical.

THE FOOD SITUATION IN EUROPE

THE POSITION EXPLAINED.

Mr. Herbert Hoover is at it again. He has sent up a plan to the British and French Governments for feeding the people in Nazi-occupied countries in Europe and has stipulated certain conditions under which this supply should be sent. He would try the experiment in Belgium and feed the people there without military advantage to either side through soup kitchens to prevent supplies from reaching Germany. It is surprising that Mr. Hoover, who knows how, in the last war, the Germans stole such food supplies from the countries they had occupied, should put forward the identical plan again. Another condition is that Berlin should agree not to requisition food from the countries to which help is being sent. In the first place, Germany is not likely to do so and in the second place, it should be remembered that Berlin has always been saying that there is no shortage of food either in Germany or in the occupied countries. The fact is that the arrangement will not work and is not simple. Mr. Sumner Welles, Under Secretary of State in the United States, in replying to Mr. Hoover's plan, said very appropriately that full responsibility should be laid on the Germans for feeding the people in the Nazi-occupied countries and that the United States Government has taken no part in advancing Mr. Hoover's plan. There is considerable force in what Mr. Sumner Welles said that Germany was obliged, under every accepted rule of international law, to care for the people in the occupied country. Writing about the activities of American speakers who are advocating the acceptance of the Hoover plan, *Time and Tide* (British) says: "We wish these speakers would try their oratory on the men in the London docks and the women bombed out of Bow and those left widows in Coventry and then for ever hold their peace."

The question of food supply to Europe, especially to the countries occupied by Germany, requires special attention in India. Lord Haw Haw is busy in making it appear that the Nazis are providing relief measures wherever necessary and that deficiency in food is entirely due to the British blockade. The deterioration in the food position, it must be recollected, is entirely due to Germany robbing the occupied countries of their supplies, to feed the German war machine. The Germans are very clever in their methods. They reduce the people of the occupied countries to the verge of starvation and then take advantage of the situation. They tell the world that they are undertaking relief measures from Berlin of which they make full use in propaganda. For example, it was announced on January 15, that 450,000 tons of potatoes and 100,000 tons of sugar were being sent to occupied and unoccupied France from which country, Germans did not hesitate to take away all that was available. It should be remembered that scarcity in the occupied countries is due solely to German pillage which takes the form of requisitioning of purchases of articles needed by the German armies of occupation and substitution of worthless paper marks for their own currency. It is necessary therefore that people in India should fully understand the situation. In the first place, as has been stated already, the food shortage in occupied countries is the result of German exploitation. Secondly, the object of the British blockade is to affect the Germans and the only result of supplying food through the blockade to the occupied countries will be to afford greater supplies to the Germans, thus prolonging the war. Thirdly, the relief measures which the Germans boast of employing consist mainly in the return of a small proportion of the inferior part of their produce to the suffering countries in order to reduce the dissatisfaction arising from the threat of starvation. Fourthly, it must be emphasised that Great Britain has made arrangements for the accumulation of food supplies and these can be sent to countries now occupied, as soon as there is an assurance that such foodstuffs will not reach the enemy.

EUROPE'S FOOD UNDER THE "NEW ORDER".

Hitler publicly exulted on July 19, 1940, in the "tremendous possibilities of exploitation" offered by the countries his armies had overrun. "While in Britain economic measures are being taken" proclaimed the Berlin radio on August 9, "Germany has at her disposal the resources of Belgium, Holland and France".

Again, "because of the satisfactory position of her dairy products a larger fat ration is available per head in Germany to-day than in most European countries". (German broadcast, 3rd February 1941.)

Whose dairy products are those? There has been shortage of fats for human consumption in Germany ever since 1932, when there was no war and no blockade. Everyone knows the alternative of "guns or butter" offered to the Germans by Goering. Is it entirely a coincidence that 85 per cent of the French production of fats comes from the occupied part of the country? Is it a coincidence that Denmark was an exporter, not an importer, of dairy products before the German invasion brought her within the British blockade?

WHAT THE NAZIS HAVE SAID.

It is only necessary to recall the statements which the Nazis have made on different occasions and for different purposes to show the hollowness of their starvation propaganda. Here is a selection:

"The Norwegian campaign has broken the English blockade"—*Der Feldzug in Norwegen, pamphlet printed in Berlin.*

" The British fleet has been rendered helpless "—*German broadcast*, 9th July 1940.

" It is not within British power to let Europe starve. Least of all does such a danger exist for Germany—It is impossible to see how the Continent could get into food difficulties "—*German internal broadcast* (*Deutschlandsender*, 5th August 1940).

" Germany is sending all foodstuffs to the French population. All necessary measures have been taken to organize and safeguard all kinds of supplies "—*German broadcast*, 9th August 1940.

" Should a scarcity of food arise in German occupied territories it would be the British Government, and the British Government alone, which would have to carry the full load of responsibility "—*German broadcast*, 11th August 1940.

" If France, Belgium and Holland are cut off from overseas food supplies, famine will certainly come and it will be a direct consequence of the British blockade. Germany is not in the least interested "—*German broadcast to North America*, 10th August 1940.

WHAT THE NAZIS HAVE DONE.

The maximum despoliation in the minimum time has been the Nazi motto. Before the last harvest was gathered they had carried off three million tons of wheat from the invaded countries' reserves. The plunder *blitz* tallies with other evidence that they hoped to finish the war last year. Every week that passes makes the German excuses for shortage less acceptable in countries which formerly had a food surplus for export. To allay rising popular indignation the Nazis may be forced to modify their programme and release limited supplies. Recently they sought to gain diplomatic advantage with Vichy by announcing that 450,000 tons of potatoes and 100,000 tons of sugar were being sent into " occupied and unoccupied France ".

The quality of such crumbs will inevitably be poor. The quantity will always be in doubt. The source is less likely to be Germany than some other subject country. The motive is certainly not those humane considerations which Hitler has openly derided.

The German system of pillage is barbarously simple. Supplies are requisitioned and paid for, if at all, in paper marks, German bonds, and a variety of other worthless currencies which are only negotiable in Germany and can never repurchase essential commodities. The armies of occupation, with increased pay and a rate of exchange fixed in their favour, also purchase supplies and send them to Germany.

Here are some details from seven ravished countries.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

Early in 1940, 1,000 wagon-loads of potatoes were transported to Germany.

All cattle requisitioned by the Nazis in October 1940 were slaughtered on the spot and loaded into Italian freight cars.

POLAND.

Poland is to be the granary of the whole German Reich, declared Gauleiter Greiser (*Dziennik Polski*, 19th September 1940 Marshal Goering decided that last year Germany was to obtain four million tons of Polish grain and over two million tons of Polish potatoes. Eighty per cent of Poland's butter was to go to Germany and all farmers must register their livestock and produce.

Governor Frank on July 20, 1940, ordered the delivery to the Central Agricultural office, or to collecting depots, of quantities of cattle, dairy produce and cereals.

HOLLAND.

In the first week of occupation 8 million kilograms of butter (about 90 per cent of the total reserves) were carried off to Germany.

In three months 70 million kilograms of vegetable produce was requisitioned.

No cheese is now obtainable, though Holland previously exported 58,000 tons of cheese out of a total production of 129,000 tons.

Poultry stock has been reduced from 29 million to 6 million, and 750,000 pigs have been killed for Germany where (according to the *Koelnische Zeitung*) " more storage space is available ".

BELGIUM.

On the night of July 25, 1940 the German-controlled Brussels radio apologized for the acute shortage of butter in Antwerp, and to a lesser extent all over Flanders, owing to " maladministration and maldistribution ". On the same night the German home programme from *Deutschlandsender* broadcast the triumphant announcement of " a special additional butter ration of 15 grams per head of the population in Germany ".

Belgian farmers have been informed that all potato crops, except an allowance for themselves, replanting and livestock, must be delivered to the German authorities (*New York Daily News, report from Germany*).

DENMARK.

In one week after the invasion, 24,000 sheep were driven off to Germany; in another, 11,000 head of cattle.

On April 15, 1940, Kalundborg Radio announced : " Margarine rationing begins as from to-day . . . The manufacture of margarine and palmin will meanwhile cease ". Nine days later the same radio had to report that " after consultation with the German authorities it has been agreed that the butter, bacon and eggs destined for export shall be sent to Germany. At the end of the month the Germans will inform us whether further supplies will be wanted ".

(*Continued on Page* 9)

DUTCH SEATS OF LEARNING

PLIGHT OF LEYDEN AND DELFT.

A Dutch correspondent writes in the course of an article in *The Times*—

The Germans are reported to have closed not only the Technical High School at Delft, but also the University of Leyden. The origin of this old seat of learning, the services it has rendered to the common fund of human knowledge, and the circumstances in which it was closed deserve more than passing attention.

In 1574 the Netherlands, having begun their rebellion against Spanish oppression six years before, continued their desperate fight against the overwhelming forces of the greatest war-machine of the time the tercios of Phillip II of Spain. Leyden was under the threat of seige. The inhabitants' first and foremost concern was the spiritual values then defended by the Netherlands in their unequal struggle; liberty of conscience and freedom from tyranny and oppression. When asked to surrender they refused. When submitted to bombardment and utter starvation they held out. Their courage and endurance were at last rewarded. The Spaniards were forced to raise the siege. Leyden was free. As a reward William the Silent offered the city the choice between freedom of certain taxes and a university. The University was chosen and it opened its doors in 1575. From then on the University has rendered signal services to the Netherlands and to the whole world.

Now this ancient seat of learning has been closed by one of Hitler's henchmen. These students, it was alleged, had been obstructive. The real reason, of course, is that the pursuit of truth for its own sake in accordance with the tradition upheld by Leyden through more than three and a half centuries is inconsistent with Nazi doctrine. Dependent on preconceived ideas, it cannot suffer these to be freely examined. The question may be put, for how long the doors of this venerable University will be barred? For, its history and achievement stand for eternal values which represent all that is best in the human mind, to which our intelligence will always revert with fresh vigour, and which in the last resort will always prevail. These values will survive, and the doors of Leyden University will be open once more, when the shallow and unscientific theories of Nazism have long been abandoned, let us hope, even by the Germans themselves.

There seems every likelihood that the process of muzzling the cultural and intellectual leadership of the Dutch people will continue with increasing thoroughness. It is the logical outcome of the discovery that the campaign to win over the Dutch population by the familiar mixture of cajolery, promises, and threats has been a complete failure. Only repression remains and that is now being applied more openly and generally every day wherever the Dutch spirit of independence asserts itself.

DOUBLE-EDGED WEAPON.

Fortunately for the Dutch the imprisonment of Dutch professors and the closing of their universities has proved a double-edged weapon. For, because of the German desire to keep up the appearance of normality at all costs, the silence created by the muzzling of Holland's intellectual and cultural leaders has to be filled with noise of one kind or another. Somebody must be found to initiate the Dutch nation into the blessings of the new culture and at the same time the fiction must be maintained that the nation voluntarily and spontaneously welcomes the new order and this somebody must be a Dutchman. As no self-respecting Dutchman is available, the Germans have had to fall back upon a number of dubious personalities who have already done the German cause more harm than good.

A striking instance was given sometime ago when a Dr. Smit, who was brought to the microphone to encourage his fellows in their task of sowing the seeds of the new culture, spent all his time condoling with his sympathizers, "who" he said "are hated and despised on every side, ignored by their friends, cursed by their relatives, lonely even in their churches." Thus the Germans have one of their own proteges to thank for the most illuminating revelation that has yet come out of Holland concerning the true feelings of the Dutch about their new masters and their friends.

FOOD SITUATION IN EUROPE.

(*Continued from Page* 8)

NORWAY.

"The Germans are confiscating about 10,000 lb. of meat daily in Oslo"—*Norwegian Legation report*, 28th December 1940.

The Quislingist authorities (announced 8th October 1940) have had to allow the Germans to acquire for export to Germany the entire Norwegian "crisis reserve" of potatoes (3 million tons) produced to meet the needs of the coming winter.

FRANCE.

The Germans occupy the richest part of France, in which seven-eighths of the staple food is grown. Article 17 of the Armistice prohibits the export of any foodstuffs from occupied to unoccupied France.

At Lyons alone (now unoccupied) more than £6,000,000 worth of goods, including food, was requisitioned during the three weeks the Nazis were there.

At least 800,000 tons of wheat has been removed to Germany from occupied France (Ministry of Economic Warfare, 31st October 1941) "We are just as much interested in the French harvest as the French themselves." (*Voelkische Beobachter*).

One million pigs and thousands of cattle were taken from France by the Nazis in two weeks last September.

Luxuries also are requisitioned. The single firm of Heidsieck has to deliver 12 million bottles of champagne to Germany.

MINELAYING BY THE R.A.F.

A MILLION MILES FLOWN.

On their nightly flights minelaying aircraft of the Bomber Command have flown more than 1,000,000 miles, the Air Ministry News Service says. They have cruised over home waters and penetrated through distant seas into channels where minelaying ships cannot go. They have dropped their mines in the North Sea, the English Channel, the Atlantic Ocean, the Kattegat, the Skagerrak, and even the Kiel Canal.

For the most part it is routine work free from enemy opposition, though sometimes the anti-aircraft battery from ship or shore attempts to bar the way. It is true that the minelayers carry bombs as well, and to the crews themselves the adventure of the night only comes when they have put their mines in the right place and can search for enemy shipping in bays or inlets of the coast. Only their bombing has any immediate effect, and it is no wonder that the minelaying itself sometimes appears to be monotonous and at first sight a thankless task.

Unlike the men who fly over Berlin or over the Alaps to Italy the minelayers can bring back no thrilling reports of instant destruction. It is only slowly, sometimes months after they have done their work, that they can know how much they have done to harass and disarm the enemy. The news of what our mines have done filters through many sources. Like Sherlock Holmes we have our methods, and like him we know how to make deductions.

SEVEN DAMAGED SHIPS.

In September, for example, the mines may have been laid, but only in the present month is it discovered that seven enemy ships, each of them severely damaged by mines, are lying at one end of the Kiel Canal. Or, again, certain information may be pieced together until it is known that several ships were sunk in places where the Germans evidently did not know that mines were laid. The Germans themselves keep extremely quiet about these losses. Only the next of kin of casualties are informed, and they allow no details to be published.

So great is the danger to German shipping from our mines that the German State Railways are refusing to accept goods for shipment by way of a number of Baltic ports, and they decline to say how long this interruption of traffic will last. One of the Baltic routes is altogether closed. Convoys from Norway must now hug the coast and choose the shortest way across the Baltic. They are so timed that the crossing is always made in daylight. Day by day reports come in describing the harvest which our minelayers have sown. Their effect is delayed, but when the mine slips gently into the water it means just as much trouble for German traffic as when "any bussts were observed" on the railway yards at Hamm.

THE FLEET AIR ARM

The Fleet Air Arm is not a distinct force but an integral part of the Navy. It is the direct descendant of the old Naval Air Service of 1914—18—which, by the way, the present Prime Minister started—and it is just as much part of the Navy as the submarine branch or the mine-sweeping. The aircraft, in fact, is merely another shot in the naval locker. There is a nautical flavour about the names of these naval aircraft—Seafox, Swordfish, Walrus, Skua, and Falmaf.

There is no over-lapping of purpose between the Fleet Air Arm as now constituted and the R.A.F. It is true that certain aerodromes are set aside exclusively for naval use. Although aerodromes ashore set aside for the Navy, and naval aircraft based there lend a hand in local defence as well as in offensive operations like those at Dunkirk and Boulogne, the reason for the existence of these shore bases arises from necessity, because naval airmen must be trained ashore before they go to sea, and ship-borne squadrons must have somewhere to go when the carrier puts into port for repairs.

The only relation between F.A.A. and the R.A.F. is that the latter supplies aircraft to specifications given by the Navy and also undertakes the preliminary training of F.A.A. pilots.

It was a Seafox from AJAX that thwarted the GRAF SPEE's attempt to hide behind a smoke screen in the Plate Battle. It was a WALRUS from WARSPITE that reconnoitred ahead of the destroyers in the second Narvik battle. It was a WALRUS, too, from the Australian cruiser HOBART that gave some timely assistance in the withdrawal from Somaliland. SKUAS sank the KOENIGSBERG in Bergen harbour when the Norwegian campaign was barely a day old, and afterwards Swordfish harried the coast from Trondheim to Narvik. Later, at Dunkirk they lent the army a hand; and recently, in the Mediterranean, they have attacked Italian warships in Italian harbours. They have won fame at Taranto on November 11, 1940, and in the action off Sardinia on November 27, 1940. FULMARS were shooting down SAVOIAS attempting to bomb the Fleet at sea.

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

Mr. Churchill's Speech

Mr. Churchill's stirring broadcast to Britain and the Empire on February 10 drew some oddly contradictory comments from the Nazi radio. The following day, for instance, Berlin's 12-30 p.m. bulletin said that the Premier's speech "did little to reassure people in Britain"; at 1-15 p.m. it was described as being full of "heart-rending appeals" to Washington; and at 7-30 p.m. Mr. Churchill was said to have indulged in "bombastic and inflated optimism!". All three descriptions could hardly be right.

Dealing with the Premier's reference to aerial warfare, the Berlin news announcer at 12-30 p.m. said that "it must be inferred that the Royal Air Force will find it very difficult to reply with anything like the same vigour as the *Luftwaffe*, even in the distant future". In that case, why did Admiral Raeder on January 28, warn Germany's dockyard workers that the *Luftwaffe* would not be able to prevent the Royal Air Force from causing "even more serious losses" in future, and why did General Milch on February 1, repeat that warning to the whole German nation, admitting that the Reich had as yet no solution to the problem of British night bombers?

Malta's Turn

What the Axis would like to happen can often be inferred from what its propagandists say *has* happened. Historic examples of propaganda dictated by wishful thinking include the destruction last year by the Berlin radio of more British cruisers than the Royal Navy possesed, as well as assertions in September that London had been "completely destroyed"; and now the same technique is being applied in the case of Malta. Thus, on February 12, the Nazi wireless asserts that "effective air attacks on Malta have deprived that Island of its significance as a first class naval base."

So "effective" have been the attacks on Malta that recently, after nearly 400 Italian or German air raids, the naval dockyard there was still sufficiently in working order to enable all the necessary repairs to be effected to the aircraft-carrier *Illustrious*, so that this great vessel (which the Nazis claimed to have put out of action) was able to proceed to Alexandria under her own power at 23 knots.

In any case, Indian listeners to Axis propaganda *about* Malta may like to know something of Axis propaganda about India *to* Malta. On February 11, Rome's broadcast in Maltese for Malta contained the following piece of information. "The British in India are still treated as prisoners. The quarters where they live have iron bars, and after sundown no one may come in or go out. In India, no European may go out after dark."

Convoy Losses

For several days the Nazi radio has been ringing bells and making extravagant boasts about a recent attack on a British convoy in the Atlantic—as a result of which it was claimed, no fewer than 14 vessels were sunk. It is now revealed that only six ships were sunk, and the names of four British and two Greek vessels which have already reached port safely have been published.

The British authorities have never attempted to minimize the risks to which allied and neutral vessels are exposed on the high seas, nor do they minimize losses when they occur German gloatings over attacks on such ships are in themselves a refutation of their own prophecy—categorically uttered by the Berlin radio on August 7, 1940—that the whole of the British mercantile fleet would be destroyed in two months, *i.e.*, well before the end of last year.

Far from Home

Meanwhile, British convoys still sail the oceans of the world, while German merchant ships today sail only in the Baltic and the Black Seas. It is established from neutral sources that some 233 German and Italian ships, totalling over 1,000,000 tons gross, are sheltering in neutral harbours all over the world—legally free to leave for home, but in fact unable to do so because of the British Navy. Only one such German ship has reached *home* since September, and at least five have been sunk or scuttled in the attempt.

This is the distribution of some of the most important of the Axis vessels which dare not brave Britain's blockade :—

	German.	Italian.
U.S.A.	2	26
Brazil	8	16
Argentine	3	17
Other S. American ports	..	..
Spain	31	12
Canary Islands	5	13
Azores	1	1

Cotton Comments

On February 13 the Nazi radio quoted alleged reports from Cairo that, in purchasing Egypt's cotton crop, England had paid "exceedingly low prices". Actually the price was regarded as very satisfactory. It will be recalled that, when Britain offered to purchase the whole of the Egyptian cotton crop last summer, Egypt's Prime Minister received a number of congratulatory telegrams. The *ex*-Senator, Eliaswad Pasha, observed: "The cotton agreement has saved the country from real danger. My heartfelt thanks to you and our great ally, Great Britain". The Industrial and Agricultural Company wired as follows: "As cotton growers, we congratulate Your Excellency on the excellent cotton agreement, which is the result of your successful endeavours with our great ally. We thank you on behalf of ourselve and landowners and tenants".

The sheer invention in which Berlin indulges on this subject is shown by their broadcast of

July 6 last, when they said : " Everyone knows that Britain neither buys anything from Egypt nor allows other countries to purchase anything from Egypt."

Under the Weather

The Italian High Command *communiqué* of February 10, which was broadcast from both Rome and Berlin, said that the British naval formation which bombarded Genoa at dawn that day was " favoured by dense banks of fog ". Listeners all over the world have not failed to notice that the weather has consistently been unkind to the Duce.

When Italy entered the war last June, the whole Alpine front was " shrouded in mist", which did not dissipate until after the Armistice, while in Septmeber, Marshal Graziani reported that the Italian troops in North Africa were " fighting in the fiery desert, content with one litre of water daily ". Two months later the Italian troops in the Balkans were said to be fighting in rain-filled trenches—which prompted Greek Headquarters to remark that —by some freak of climate, the Greek trenches remained dry.

When British warships made a sweep into the Adriatic on December 22, the Italians explained that the British " deliberately chose a day when the weather was bad, so that they should not have the unpleasant surprise of meeting the Italian fleet ".

Benghazi Tail Piece

Perhaps feeling that the weather excuse had been over-worked, the German wireless on February 11 quoted *Tribuna*, the Rome paper, as saying that the surrender of Benghazi was ordered " so as to save the Italian forces for the coming counter-attack ". In that case, the surrender of Benghazi has been in vain, because the entire remaining Italian forces in Cyrenaica, numbering 15,000 men, surrendered soon after the town fell to the British.

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

A German Military Base

Commenting on the recall of Sir Reginald Hoare, Britain's envoy in Rumania, Dr. Goebbels' radio on February 12 quoted a German newspaper as saying that Britain had been compelled to surrender to the new political order. Economic exploitation and the numerous Nazi-inspired pogroms have shown the unfortunate people of Rumania what the Germans' much-lauded " New Order " really stands for. But, quite apart from that, the British Government have recalled their Minister not because they were surrendering to the German New Order, but because the Rumanian puppet Government had acquiesced in Germany's using Rumania as a military base in furtherance of the Nazi plans for prosecuting the war.

Nazi Interpretation of American Opinion

The Nazis in their Hindustani broadcast of February 13 quoted a German newspaper as saying that the political developments and opinions expressed in the U. S. A. testify to the Americans' belief that England will be defeated. The most important recent political development in the U. S. A. is that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has approved the Lease and Lend Bill, which is an unmistakeable evidence of U. S. A.'s determination to render speedy help to Britain.

Germany's Strength

" While Britain is pinning her hope on outside help ", announced Dr. Goebbels' radio on February 10, " Germany relies on her own strength." And this in spite of the fact (to take only a few examples at random) that France is paying for the German army of occupation at the rate of Rs. 1⅓ crores a day, that exploitation per head in Norway up to November 30, 1940, amounts to Rs. 147/12/- per head per day and that Rumania has to pay £30,000 a day for the far-from-proud privilege of entertaining Nazi troops. The German newspaper, *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, admitted in October 1940 that " the tax revenues from Germany's newly acquired territories would alone under normal conditions be sufficient to cover interest and moratorium on the armament debts of the Reich".

Indian Workmen in Britain

Referring to the departure of the first batch of the Indian trainees under the Bevin scheme, the Nazi radio told us on February 13 that the British Ministers wanted to get more work out of these Indian labourers than they could get out of their own workers and to pay them a smaller wage. In point of fact, however, these workmen will work in British factories under exactly the same conditions as British workmen, as regards both hours of work and wages.

The Press in Germany

According to a German broadcast in Hindustani of February 13, Dr. Dietrich, the Nazi Press Chief, was busy telling foreign journalists in Germany that the Press in Germany was free. Referring to Press " abuses " in Pre-Nazi Germany, Hitler himself wrote in *Mein Kampf* : " I believe that our present generation would easily master this danger once they were rightly led......... Once this instrument which shapes public opinion is brought under State control and no longer left in the hands of the enemy of the people," the task would be easy. Consistently with his ideas, Hitler controlled the Press as soon as he captured power in Germany, and censorship in the Nazi Germany is so rigid that even the headings of news items are dictated from above. As for the British Press if it were State-controlled, Dr. Goebbels would not be able to fill his broadcasts with expressions of British opinions which can be twisted to his purpose. The very existence of different political parties, which Hitler derides, is a guarantee that the British Press does not serve a political master.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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